GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1873
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2001
SETTING UP OF HIGH TECH SILOS
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to evolve a plan to encourage various State Governments to bild high-tech silos to store rice and wheat;

(b) whether the Government are also aware of the huge loss of foodgrains both in the field and during storage;

(c) whether the Government have done any study to construct high-tech silos; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a) No, Sir. However, in order to reduce storage and transit losses and to introduce bulk handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains procured by the Food Corporation of India(FCI), the Government has notified on July 4, 2000 a National policy on handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains. The policy envisages harnessing the efforts and resources of public and private sectors, both domestic and foreign, for creation of bulk grain handling , storage and transportation facilities in the country.

(b) Yes, Sir. However, exact quantum of foodgrains losses during post harvest period at farm level due to insects, rodents, moisture, birds and microorganisms etc. is not known. A Committee headed by Dr.V.G.Panse, in its report submitted in 1968, had estimated annual post harvest losses in the foodgrains at various stages at 9.33%. These included losses during threshing (1.68%), transportation(0.15%), processing (0.92%) rodents (2.50%), birds (0.85%),insects (2.55%) moisture (0.68%). A survey conducted by Directorate of Marketing & Inspection, Govt. of India, during 1973-74, had estimated post harvest losses in foodgrainsto be about 5.0%, out of which storage losses were estimated at about 2.7%. A joint survey conducted by Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute and Indian Grain Storage Management & Research Institute, during 1985-88 in Bulandshahar district of U.P. had estimated total foodgrain losses at about 4.12% due to different factors at various post harvest stages. However, the losses in foodgrains during storage in the organised sector are less than 0.5% .

(c) & (d) : A Steering Committee constituted by the Government had studied and recommended the introduction of bulk handling , storage (Silos) and transportation of foodgrains in the country. Further, a team of officials from the Railways, the CentralWarehousing Corporation and this Ministry had also studied the system of bulk grain handling, storage and transportation prevalent in other countries and suggested for introduction of the integrated bulk grain handling in the country.